



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6626

January Session, 2005

* _____ HB06626F IN _____ 051705 _____ *

**AN ACT PROVIDING IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF
THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) If any member of the
2 armed forces of the United States or of any state or of any reserve
3 component thereof who is domiciled in this state and who is called to
4 active service and deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation
5 Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom is, on or after
6 September 11, 2001, and before July 1, 2006, killed in action or dies as a
7 result of an accident or illness sustained while performing active
8 military duty with the armed forces of the United States and is
9 survived by:

10 (1) A spouse and a dependent child or children under eighteen
11 years of age, the Comptroller shall draw (A) an order on the Treasurer
12 for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, payable in equal
13 monthly installments over a period of not less than ten years to such
14 member's spouse, except that any such payments shall terminate on
15 the death or remarriage of such spouse during said ten-year period,
16 and (B) an order on the Treasurer for monthly payments of fifty dollars
17 for each dependent child under eighteen years of age, payable to such
18 spouse or the guardian of each such child, until such child reaches
19 eighteen years of age;

20 (2) No spouse and a dependent child or children under eighteen
21 years of age, the Comptroller shall draw (A) an order on the Treasurer
22 for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, payable in equal
23 monthly installments over a period of not less than ten years to the
24 guardian of such child or children on behalf of and for the care of such
25 child or children, except that any such payments shall terminate when
26 the youngest of such children reaches eighteen years of age during
27 said ten-year period, and (B) an order on the Treasurer for monthly
28 payments of fifty dollars for each dependent child under eighteen
29 years of age, payable to the guardian of such child, on behalf of and for
30 the care of such child, until such child reaches eighteen years of age;

31 (3) A spouse and no child or children under eighteen years of age,
32 the Comptroller shall draw an order on the Treasurer for the sum of
33 fifty thousand dollars payable in equal monthly installments over a
34 period of not less than five years, to such spouse, except that any such
35 payments shall terminate on the death or remarriage of such spouse
36 during such five-year period;

37 (4) No spouse and no child or children under eighteen years of age
38 but a parent or parents dependent upon such member, the
39 Comptroller shall draw an order on the Treasurer for the sum of fifty
40 thousand dollars, payable to such member's parent or parents in equal
41 monthly installments over a period of not less than five years, except
42 that (A) on the death of one such parent, the surviving parent shall
43 continue to receive the entire monthly payments under the provisions
44 of this subdivision, and (B) on the death of such surviving parent
45 during such five-year period, such payments shall cease.

46 (b) The amount paid to any person under this section shall be
47 reduced by the amount of any death benefit that is paid to such person
48 for the death of such member under any federal law that is enacted on
49 or after the effective date of this section.

50 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
51 "department" means the Military Department, (2) "fund" means the

52 Service Members' Life Insurance Reimbursement Fund established in
53 accordance with this section, and (3) "eligible member of the armed
54 forces" means a member of the armed forces of the United States or of
55 any state or of any reserve component thereof who is domiciled in this
56 state and who is on active duty during a time of war declared by
57 Congress.

58 (b) There is established, within the General Fund, a separate,
59 nonlapsing account to be known as the "Service Members' Life
60 Insurance Reimbursement Fund". The fund shall contain (1) any
61 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the state for the
62 purposes of this section, (2) any moneys required by law to be
63 deposited in the fund, and (3) gifts, grants, donations or bequests made
64 for the purposes of this section. Investment earnings credited to the
65 assets of the fund shall become part of the assets of the fund. Any
66 balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be
67 carried forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The
68 State Treasurer shall administer the fund. All moneys deposited in the
69 fund shall be used by the Military Department for the purposes of this
70 section.

71 (c) On and after July 1, 2006, the Military Department shall use the
72 Service Members' Life Insurance Reimbursement Fund to reimburse
73 each eligible member of the armed forces for premiums paid by such
74 member for up to one hundred thousand dollars in benefits under the
75 Servicemembers Group Life Insurance program pursuant to 38 USC
76 1965, et seq., as amended from time to time.

77 (d) The department shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
78 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
79 provisions of this section.

80 (e) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to alter, amend or
81 change the eligibility or applicability of the Servicemembers Group
82 Life Insurance program pursuant to 38 USC 1965, et seq., as amended
83 from time to time, or any rights, responsibilities or benefits thereunder.

84 (f) The amount paid to any eligible member under this section for
85 any premium paid by such member for any time period shall be
86 reduced by the amount of any payments made under any federal law
87 enacted on or after the effective date of this act to such member for life
88 insurance premiums for the same time period.

89 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
90 "department" means the Military Department, (2) "fund" means the
91 Military Relief Fund established in accordance with this section, (3)
92 "eligible member of the armed forces" and "eligible member" means a
93 member of the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-
94 103 of the general statutes, including the Connecticut National Guard,
95 who is on active duty and who is domiciled in this state, (4)
96 "immediate family member" means an eligible member's spouse, child
97 or parent who is domiciled in this state, or any other member of an
98 eligible member's family who lives in the same household as the
99 eligible member, and (5) "essential personal or household goods or
100 services" includes, but is not limited to, repairs, medical services that
101 are not covered by insurance, transportation, babysitting, clothing,
102 school supplies or any other goods or services that are essential to the
103 well-being of an eligible member's immediate family.

104 (b) There is established, within the General Fund, a separate,
105 nonlapsing account to be known as the "Military Relief Fund". The
106 fund shall contain (1) any amounts appropriated or otherwise made
107 available by the state for the purposes of this section, (2) any moneys
108 required by law to be deposited in the fund, and (3) gifts, grants,
109 donations or bequests made for the purposes of this section.
110 Investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund shall become
111 part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the account at
112 the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for
113 the fiscal year next succeeding. The State Treasurer shall administer
114 the fund. All moneys deposited in the fund shall be used by the
115 Military Department for the purposes of this section. The Military
116 Department may deduct and retain from the moneys in the fund an
117 amount equal to the costs incurred by the department in administering

118 the provisions of this section, except that said amount shall not exceed
119 two per cent of the moneys deposited in the fund in any fiscal year.

120 (c) The Military Department shall use the Military Relief Fund to
121 make grants to immediate family members of eligible members of the
122 armed forces for essential personal or household goods or services if
123 the payment for such goods or services would be a hardship for such
124 family member because of the military service of the eligible member.
125 The department shall not make any grant that exceeds the balance
126 available for grants in the fund.

127 (d) The department shall establish an application process that is
128 simple for immediate family members. The department shall act on
129 each application no later than seven days after the date on which the
130 completed application is submitted to the department.

131 (e) On or after six months from the effective date of this section,
132 after evaluating the performance of the program during the preceding
133 six months, including available resources and applications received,
134 the department may commence the process to adopt regulations, in
135 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
136 that would facilitate the purposes of this act, including, but not limited
137 to, establishing a maximum amount of each grant, of each type of grant
138 or of grants to the immediate family members of any eligible member,
139 and establishing criteria for the approval of grant applications. The
140 department may implement the policies and procedures contained in
141 such proposed regulations while in the process of adopting such
142 proposed regulations, provided the department publishes notice of
143 intention to adopt the regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal no
144 later than twenty days after implementing such policies and
145 procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
146 subsection shall be valid until the earlier of the date on which such
147 regulations are effective or one year after the publication of such notice
148 of intention.

149 (f) On or before July 15, 2005, and on or before the fifteenth day

150 following the close of each calendar quarter thereafter, the department
151 shall submit a report to the select committee of the General Assembly
152 having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs,
153 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, that contains
154 the following information for the preceding calendar quarter: (1) The
155 number of applications received, (2) the number of eligible members
156 whose immediate family members received payments under this
157 section, (3) the amount in payments made to the immediate family of
158 each such eligible member, (4) the uses for such payments, and (5) any
159 recommendations regarding the Military Relief Fund, including any
160 proposed legislation to facilitate the purposes of this section. Such
161 reports shall not identify the name of any eligible member or of any
162 immediate family member. Notwithstanding the provisions of
163 subsection (a) of section 1-210 of the general statutes, all information
164 obtained by the Military Department that contains the name or address
165 of, or other information that could be used to identify, an eligible
166 member or an eligible member's immediate family member shall be
167 confidential.

168 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005, and applicable to taxable years*
169 *commencing on or after January 1, 2005*) (a) (1) Any taxpayer filing a
170 return under chapter 229 of the general statutes for taxable years
171 commencing on or after January 1, 2005, may contribute all or part of a
172 refund under chapter 229 of the general statutes to the Military Relief
173 Fund established in section 3 of this act, by indicating on the tax return
174 the amount to be contributed to the fund.

175 (2) Any taxpayer filing a return under chapter 229 of the general
176 statutes may contribute an additional amount to the Military Relief
177 Fund established in section 3 of this act, by indicating on the tax return
178 the amount to be contributed to the fund. Any contribution made
179 pursuant to this subdivision shall be in addition to the amount of tax
180 reported to be due on such return and shall be paid at the same time as
181 the tax due on such return is paid and in the manner prescribed by the
182 Commissioner of Revenue Services.

183 (b) A contribution or designation made pursuant to this section shall
184 be irrevocable upon the filing of the return. A taxpayer making a
185 contribution or designation pursuant to this subsection shall so
186 indicate on the tax return in a manner provided for by the
187 Commissioner of Revenue Services.

188 (c) A contribution of all or part of a refund shall be made in the full
189 amount indicated if the refund found due the taxpayer upon the initial
190 processing of the return, and after any deductions required by chapter
191 229 of the general statutes, is greater than or equal to the indicated
192 contribution. If the refund due, as determined upon initial processing,
193 and after any deductions required by said chapter 229, is less than the
194 indicated contribution, the contribution shall be made in the full
195 amount of the refund. The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall
196 subtract the amount of any contribution of all or part of a refund from
197 the amount of the refund initially found due the taxpayer and shall
198 certify (1) the amount of the refund initially found due the taxpayer,
199 (2) the amount of any such contribution, and (3) the amount of the
200 difference to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and
201 the State Treasurer for payment to the taxpayer in accordance with
202 said chapter 229. For the purposes of any subsequent determination of
203 the taxpayer's net tax payment, such contribution shall be considered a
204 part of the refund paid to the taxpayer.

205 (d) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, after notification of and
206 approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
207 may deduct and retain from the moneys collected under subsections
208 (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section an amount equal to the costs of
209 administering this section, but not to exceed four per cent of such
210 moneys collected in any fiscal year. The Commissioner of Revenue
211 Services shall deposit the remaining moneys collected in the Military
212 Relief Fund.

213 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005, and applicable to taxable years*
214 *commencing on or after January 1, 2005*) (a) (1) Any taxpayer filing a
215 return under chapter 208 of the general statutes for taxable years

216 commencing on or after January 1, 2005, may contribute all or part of a
217 refund under said chapter 208 to the Military Relief Fund established
218 in section 3 of this act, by indicating on the tax return the amount to be
219 contributed to the fund.

220 (2) Any taxpayer filing a return under chapter 208 of the general
221 statutes may contribute an additional amount to the Military Relief
222 Fund established in section 3 of this act, by indicating on the tax return
223 the amount to be contributed to the fund. Any contribution made
224 pursuant to this subdivision shall be in addition to the amount of tax
225 reported to be due on such return and shall be paid at the same time as
226 the tax due on such return is paid and in the manner prescribed by the
227 Commissioner of Revenue Services.

228 (b) A contribution or designation made pursuant to this section shall
229 be irrevocable upon the filing of the return. A taxpayer making a
230 contribution or designation pursuant to this subsection shall so
231 indicate on the tax return in a manner provided for by the
232 Commissioner of Revenue Services pursuant to subsection (c) of this
233 section.

234 (c) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall revise the income
235 tax return form to implement the provisions of subsection (a) of this
236 section. Such form shall include (1) a space on the return in which
237 taxpayers may indicate their intention to make a contribution or
238 designation in accordance with this section, and (2) instructions for
239 payment of any contribution under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of
240 this section. The commissioner shall include in the instructions
241 accompanying the tax return a description of the purposes for which
242 the Military Relief Fund was established.

243 (d) A contribution of all or part of a refund shall be made in the full
244 amount indicated if the refund found due the taxpayer upon the initial
245 processing of the return, and after any deductions required by chapter
246 208 of the general statutes, is greater than or equal to the indicated
247 contribution. If the refund due, as determined upon initial processing

248 and after any deductions required by said chapter 208, is less than the
249 indicated contribution, the contribution shall be made in the full
250 amount of the refund. The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall
251 subtract the amount of any contribution of all or part of a refund from
252 the amount of the refund initially found due the taxpayer and shall
253 certify (1) the amount of the refund initially due the taxpayer, (2) the
254 amount of any such contribution, and (3) the amount of the difference
255 to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the State
256 Treasurer for payment to the taxpayer in accordance with said chapter
257 208. For the purposes of any subsequent determination of the
258 taxpayer's net tax payment, such contribution shall be considered a
259 part of the refund paid to the taxpayer.

260 (e) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, after notification of and
261 approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
262 may deduct and retain from the moneys collected under subsections
263 (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section an amount equal to the costs of
264 administering this section, but not to exceed four per cent of such
265 moneys collected in any fiscal year. The Commissioner of Revenue
266 Services shall deposit the remaining moneys collected in the Military
267 Relief Fund.

268 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Department of Veterans'
269 Affairs shall provide a toll-free telephone number for use as a
270 clearinghouse by active members of the armed forces in this state,
271 including the National Guard, and their families to obtain, in response
272 to their requests about benefits or services that may be available to
273 such members or their families, referrals to entities that provide such
274 benefits or services. The toll-free telephone number shall be staffed by
275 employees of or trained volunteers working at the Department of
276 Veterans' Affairs on weekdays during regular business hours, and on
277 weekends and holidays from nine o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m.

278 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
279 "department" means the Department of Veterans' Affairs, (2) "service
280 member" means a member of the armed forces, as defined in

281 subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes, including the
282 Connecticut National Guard, (3) "veteran" has the same meaning as
283 provided in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes, and
284 (4) "committee" means the select committee of the General Assembly
285 having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs.

286 (b) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall develop and maintain
287 a service members' and veterans' contact list, consisting of only the
288 names and mailing addresses of service members and veterans who
289 reside in this state, using information in the department's records and
290 information submitted to the department by (1) the Military
291 Department, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, (2) the
292 assessor of each town, as provided in subsection (d) of this section, or
293 (3) service members or veterans, as provided in subsection (e) of this
294 section.

295 (c) On or before September 1, 2005, the Military Department shall
296 submit to the Department of Veterans' Affairs a list of the name and
297 mailing address, but no other information, of each service member
298 who is a resident of this state that is in the records of the Military
299 Department.

300 (d) On or before the sixtieth day following the date on which an
301 exemption pursuant to subdivision (19) of section 12-81 of the general
302 statutes takes effect, as provided in section 12-95 of the general
303 statutes, the assessor of each town that granted any such exemption
304 shall submit to the Department of Veterans' Affairs a list of the name
305 and mailing address, but no other information, of each individual who
306 has such exemption.

307 (e) A service member or veteran who is a resident of this state may
308 add his or her name and mailing address to the contact list by
309 submitting such information to the Department of Veterans' Affairs in
310 person or by mail. A service member shall include a copy of his or her
311 military identification card and a veteran shall include a copy of his or
312 her military discharge document, as defined in section 1-219 of the

313 general statutes.

314 (f) Any individual who is included in the contact list may cause his
315 or her name to be removed from the contact list by notifying the
316 Department of Veterans' Affairs in writing.

317 (g) (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Military Department
318 and the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
319 of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs may use the contact
320 list solely for the purposes of notifying service members or veterans of
321 benefits, proposed or enacted legislation that affects service members
322 or veterans or their families, or other information that the Department
323 of Veterans' Affairs, the Military Department or the committee believes
324 will be helpful to veterans or their families. The Department of
325 Veterans' Affairs shall provide a copy of the contact list to the Military
326 Department, upon receipt of a written request signed by the Adjutant
327 General, or to the select committee, upon receipt of a written request
328 signed by either chairperson of the committee.

329 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 1-210
330 of the general statutes, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the
331 Military Department and the select committee shall not disclose any
332 information in the contact list to any person other than as provided in
333 this subsection. No person shall use the contact list for any purpose
334 other than as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

335 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
336 "member" means a member of the armed forces, as defined in section
337 27-103 of the general statutes, including the Connecticut National
338 Guard, who is on active duty and who is a resident of this state, (2)
339 "services" includes, but is not limited to, repairs, gardening,
340 transportation, babysitting, tutoring, cooking or any other services that
341 a member or member's family would find helpful, and (3) "local
342 organizations" includes not-for-profit organizations that serve
343 members and veterans and their families, and other organizations that
344 seek to volunteer services to members and their families.

345 (b) The Family Program of the Connecticut National Guard shall
 346 establish a volunteer service program in which a volunteer service
 347 coordinator coordinates with municipalities and local organizations
 348 throughout the state to provide services by volunteers to members and
 349 their families. No person shall volunteer any services for which a
 350 license, certificate of registration, permit or other credentials issued by
 351 a state agency is required unless such person holds such license,
 352 certificate of registration, permit or other credentials.

353 (c) The volunteer services coordinator shall identify municipalities
 354 and local organizations that provide volunteer services to members
 355 and their families in communities throughout the state and shall assist
 356 such municipalities and local organizations.

357 (d) On or before January 31, 2006, and annually thereafter, the
 358 Family Program of the Connecticut National Guard shall report to the
 359 select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 360 matters related to veterans' and military affairs, in accordance with
 361 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the services provided by
 362 volunteers to service members throughout the state, including, but not
 363 limited to, the level of services in different geographical areas.

364 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Family Program of the
 365 Connecticut National Guard shall publicize to all members of the
 366 armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the
 367 general statutes, including the Connecticut National Guard, and their
 368 families the availability throughout the state of therapy support
 369 groups for such members and their families. The publicity shall
 370 include contact information for referral to support groups in locations
 371 that are convenient for such members and their families.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005, and applicable to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005, and applicable to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section

FIN *Joint Favorable Subst.*